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Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru: revised draft resolution

International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the resolutions in which it emphasizes and acknowledges the importance of international, bilateral and multilateral economic, financial and technical support, cooperation and assistance for peacekeeping and peace-building in Central America following the armed conflicts in the region, in particular its resolutions 49/21 I of 20 December 1994, 50/58 B of 12 December 1995, 50/132 of 20 December 1995 and 52/169 G of 16 December 1997, which provide a frame of reference for international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[1] in support of national efforts to make the region a zone of peace, freedom, democracy and development,

Noting that, as the century draws to a close, the Central American countries have achieved significant progress towards the consolidation of democracy and good governance, the strengthening of civilian Governments, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the promotion of State and economic reforms, sustainable development and regional integration, reflecting the desire of the Central American peoples to live and prosper in a climate of peace and solidarity,

Stressing the importance and effectiveness of the commitments undertaken by the Central American Presidents at various regional presidential summits, in particular those

[1] See A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1217.

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which constitute the global framework for promoting and consolidating peace, democracy and sustainable human development in Central America,

Recognizing that hurricane Mitch, the worst disaster to strike the Central American region in this century, underscored the extreme vulnerability of the poorest sectors of the population, in particular women and children, which were the most severely affected, and the inadequacy of existing local and national institutions to deal with natural disasters,

Noting that the various natural phenomena which have affected the region are one of the factors that have put at risk the biodiversity of Central America,

Taking into consideration that, at the second Consultative Group Meeting for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America, co-hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Sweden and held in Stockholm from 25 to 28 May 1999, the Governments of the region, the principal donors and representatives of civil society renewed their commitment to democratic change and sustainable human development as the best means of reducing economic, social and ecological vulnerability to disasters, and looking forward to the next round of Consultative Group Meetings, to be held in Nicaragua and Honduras in February 2000,

Taking into account that the Governments of the region have designated the period 2000-2004 as the Quinquennium for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Natural Disasters in Central America and have adopted a strategic framework for the reduction of vulnerability and disasters in Central America, which contain guidelines for the elaboration, updating, improvement and development of regional plans for the reduction of vulnerability to and the impact of natural disasters, the integrated management and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of forest fires,

Stressing that the achievement of the national priorities in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, public safety and regional integration fields, which are set out in the programme of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, is essential for reducing the region's vulnerability to natural disasters and for promoting sustainable human development,

Considering the necessity of ensuring the elimination of anti-personnel mines from Central American territory as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of mine victims in their communities in order to restore normal conditions for the integral development of the region,

Recognizing the valuable and effective contribution made by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and by the various governmental and non-governmental mechanisms, the donor community and the Consultative Group for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America and the importance of the political dialogue and cooperation taking place between the European Union and Central America and the joint initiative of the industrialized countries of the Group of Twenty-four and the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) in the progress made towards consolidating peace, democracy and the implementation of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,

Reaffirming the need to continue focusing attention on the situation in Central America with a view to overcoming the underlying causes of the armed conflicts which have impeded the region's development and avoiding a reversal of the achievements,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the reports of the Secretary-General on international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central

America[2] and on collaborative efforts to assist Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries,[3] in particular their recommendations and conclusions;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of supporting and strengthening the efforts of the Central American countries to implement the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America, adopted by their Presidents in the Declaration of Guatemala II on 19 October 1999,[4] and the projects and programmes of the Quinquennium for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Natural Disasters in Central America, in accordance with the process of transformation and sustainable development for the region for the next millennium, which contain basic guidelines for the prevention and mitigation of damage, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups and sectors, as identified by gender-based levels of poverty and marginality;

3. *Notes* the efforts and achievements relating to mine clearance in Central America, despite the negative impact of hurricane Mitch, and appeals to the organs of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Mine Action Service, and the Organization of American States as well as the international community to continue providing the material, technical and financial support needed by the Central American Governments to complete mine-clearance, mine-awareness and victim assistance activities in the region, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and with the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction that relate to international cooperation and assistance;

4. *Stresses* the need for the international community to maintain its cooperation and assistance, including provision of financial resources, both bilateral and multilateral, with the Central American countries, to support the promotion of sustainable development and the consolidation of peace, freedom and democracy in the region;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress achieved towards the implementation of the subregional cooperation programme in Central America of the United Nations Development Programme focusing on peace and democratic governance, strengthening of the rule of law, economic and social development and sustainable development, which was established in 1996;

6. *Recognizes* the importance for the subregion of the studies being undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with its national and regional partners and with donors, in particular in the preparation of the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank Consultative Group on the regional aspects of the reconstruction and transformation of Central America, to be hosted by the Government of Spain in Madrid in 2000, which will seek to establish new relations of cooperation in pursuit of the objectives of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the initiative to introduce the new and innovative approach of a Meso-American Biological Corridor, which is being developed with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme's own funds, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and the United

[2] A/54/350.

[3] A/54/130-E/1999/72.

[4] A/54/630, annex, para. 1.

States Agency for International Development, as an initiative with an innovative approach that seeks to conserve biodiversity, mitigate the effects of climate change and promote the sustainable development of rural communities, which will facilitate the establishment of a network of protected areas throughout Central America that will help to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters;

8. *Supports* the decision of the Central American Governments to concentrate their efforts on the implementation of updated programmes with strategies to achieve sustainable human development in previously determined priority areas, which help to consolidate peace and resolve social inequalities, extreme poverty and social explosion;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and all States, international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations to continue providing the support needed to attain the objectives of the programme for the sustainable development of Central America, in particular those which are being pursued within the framework of the Quinquennium for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Natural Disasters in Central America;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-sixth session the question of international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America.